THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government does not intend to scrap the Constitution.

Conversion of Co-operative Bodies into Banks

3920. SHRI SHIBU SOREN :

DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY

SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to convert co-operative bodies into companies;

(b) it so, what are the factors responsible for taking this decision;

(c) by when the proposal would take off;

(d) the details of the Committee, if any, appointed for the purpose; and

(e) by when the Committee will submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (e) The Government had, on 1-11-1999, appointed a High Power Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Y.K. Alagh, an eminent Economist and a former Union Minister to examine framing a legislation which would enable incorporation of cooperatives as companies, conversion of existing cooperatives into companies and ensuring that the proposed legislation accommmodates the unique elements of cooperative business within a regulatory framework similar to that of private limited companies.

The Committee consisted of following persons :

(1) Dr. Y. K. Alagh, Economist —Chairman

(2) Shri Bhagat Singh, Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation —Member

(3) Ms. Amrita Patel, NDDB, Anand —Member

(4) Shri Vinay Kore, Chairman, Warana Rural Co-operative Complex, Waranangar (Kholapur) —Member

(5) Smt. Sudha Pillai, Joint Secretary, Department of Rural Development —Member

(6) Shri N. L. Vaidyanathan, Senior Legal Consultant —Member

(7) Shri K.D. Singh, Joint Secretary & Legal Adviser, Department of Legal Affairs —Member

(8) Shri R. D. Joshi, Joint, Secretary, Department of Company Affairs —Member Secretary

The Committee has since submitted its Report, which is under examination.

Expenditure Incurred on Elections

3921. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the approximate expenditure incurred on conducting elections for each Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly seats; and

(b) the action proposed to be taken to reduce the expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) The entire expenditure on conduct of elections to the Legislative Assemblies of the States is met by the Government of the concerned States and Union territories (with Legislatures) from their respective Consolidated Funds. The entire expenditure on conduct of elections to the House of the People is met by the Government of India. The expenditure on the conduct of elections is shared equally between the Government of India and the State Governments/UTs (with Legislatures) if the elections to the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of the States/UTs are held simultaneously. The figures regarding amount of expenditure for holding elections to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies are, however, not maintained

(b) The expenses involve a number of items which are considered essential for smooth conduct of the elections. As such, no steps are envisaged for reducing the expenditure.